

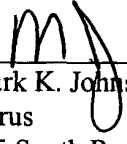
#### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims: Please cancel all original claims and add new claims 1-17.

1. A process for analyzing gene function comprising: a) injecting a naked polynucleotide encoding the gene into a blood vessel lumen, *in vivo* ; b) increasing the propensity for macromolecules to move through vessel walls and enter the extravascular space; and, c) delivering the naked polynucleotide to an extravascular cell outside of the blood vessel.
2. The process of claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide consists of a gene.
3. The process of claim 1 wherein the gene encodes a protein.
4. A process for analyzing gene function comprising: a) injecting a naked oligonucleotide into a blood vessel lumen, *in vivo* ; b) increasing the propensity for macromolecules to move through vessel walls and enter the extravascular space; and, c) delivering the naked oligonucleotide to an extravascular cell outside of the blood vessel via the increased permeability.
5. The process of claim 4 wherein the oligonucleotide consists of a single strand oligonucleotide.
6. The process of claim 5 wherein the single strand oligonucleotide consists of anti-sense oligonucleotide.
7. The process of claim 6 wherein the single strand oligonucleotide consists of an artificial oligonucleotide.
8. The process of claim 4 wherein the oligonucleotide consists of double strand nucleic acid.
9. The process of claim 8 wherein the double strand oligonucleotide comprises RNA.
10. The process of claim 4 wherein delivery of the oligonucleotide to the cell results in decreased expression of the gene.
11. The process of claim 9 wherein the double strand oligonucleotide consists of a nucleic acid sequence comprising 10 to 50 bases.
12. The process of claim 11 wherein the double strand oligonucleotide consists of a nucleic acid sequence comprising 18 to 25 bases.
13. The process of claim 4 wherein the oligonucleotide comprises sequence that is similar to a portion of the gene sequence.
14. The process of claim 10 wherein the gene is an endogenous gene.
15. The process of claim 15 wherein the gene is a viral gene.
16. The process of claim 1 wherein analyzing gene function comprises drug design.
17. The process of claim 4 wherein analyzing gene function comprises drug design.

In there are any questions or problems, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Kirk Ekena